

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 131

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Eusebia Presbyterian Church upon the occasion of its 225th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Eusebia Presbyterian Church in Seymour, Tennessee, comprise one such congregation, and they are celebrating the church's 225 years of service to the Lord and its community this year; and

WHEREAS, Eusebia Presbyterian Church will commemorate 225 years of worship and service by hosting events throughout 2011; the year-long celebration began with a tree planting ceremony to symbolize the humble beginnings of Eusebia under a beech tree and the congregation will hold its 225th homecoming celebration on May 15, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the history of Eusebia Presbyterian dates back to 1786 and, since its inception, the church has served as an associate and partner with the community and state in peril and in prosperity, in war and in peace, in tragedy and in triumph; three years after the Revolutionary War, the Reverend Archibald Scott rode into the Blount County community from Virginia to establish two church congregations on the very same day; and

WHEREAS, Eusebia, from the Greek word in the New Testament, means 'Reverence to the most High God and to His Son, Jesus Christ' or 'reverence for godliness and holiness'; and

WHEREAS, the first pastor for Eusebia Presbyterian Church was the Reverend Gideon Blackburn, who served both the congregations the Reverend Scott chartered from 1792 until 1810; and

WHEREAS, Eusebia Presbyterian is a church family with a rich narration of commitment and continuity among its members, many of whom can trace their heritage back for generations; and

WHEREAS, Eusebia Church's cemetery is the final resting place for at least fifteen Revolutionary War soldiers, and fifty-five veterans of other conflicts, spanning from the Civil War to Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, four church buildings have been constructed on the two-acre site since its founding: The current sanctuary was raised in 1930 and an education wing was added in 1986; and

WHEREAS, the many pastors of Eusebia Presbyterian Church have been instrumental in building the faith and solidarity of the Blount County community; and

WHEREAS, Eusebia Presbyterian Church is among those institutions upon which a just and orderly society is based; it is a focal point for our citizens to worship their Creator as a community of faith and from which they reach out to the secular community as a response to God's saving grace; and

WHEREAS, Eusebia Presbyterian Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our state and nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Eusebia Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its 225th anniversary, extending to its exceptional congregation our best wishes for much continued success in performing God's work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.